

OFFICERS  
JOHN H. HYBARGER  
Chairperson  
SANDRA ARONBERG, M.D., M.P.H.  
Vice-Chairperson

MEMBERS  
DOUGLAS S. DRUMMOND  
TIMOTHY JONES  
BRADLEY NUREMBERG



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**FISH AND GAME COMMISSION**

**383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**  
**500 West Temple Street**  
**Los Angeles, CA 90012**  
**(213) 974-1431 Fax (213) 633-5102**

**MINUTES**

Thursday, January 11, 2007 Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374-A

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

John Hybarger, Chairperson  
Sandra Aronberg  
Douglas Drummond  
Timothy Jones  
Bradley Nuremberg

**STAFF PRESENT**

Peter Papadakis  
Garen Khachian

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Hybarger called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2006 MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Aronberg, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the September 19, 2006 minutes.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the reelection of Chairperson Hybarger.

On motion of Commissioner Nuremberg, seconded by Commissioner Drummond, the Commission unanimously approved the reelection of Vice-Chair Aronberg.

**REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORT**

Staff reported the current Fish and Game Commission fund balance is \$80,553.26.

On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Nuremberg, the Commission unanimously received and filed the financial report.

**GRANT REQUEST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,000 TO RESEARCH THE COEXISTENCE OF NATIVE WESTERN GRAY SQUIRREL AND THE INTRODUCED FOX SQUIRREL IN CERTAIN HABITATS – PROFESSOR ALAN MUCHLINSKI, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES**

Professor Alan Muchlinski, California State University, Los Angeles (CSLA) introduced Suzanne Brunelle, a graduate student from CSLA. Ms. Brunelle presented her

research on the coexistence of the native gray squirrel and the fox squirrel with focus on the following three situations/scenarios:

- Fox squirrels have replaced gray squirrels in certain habitats
- Fox squirrels and gray squirrels coexist in certain habitats
- Gray squirrels exist alone in certain habitats, adjacent to, or surrounded by, population of fox squirrels

The methodology is based on the characteristic structure of the habitat in two general types of areas; habitats which once supported populations of gray squirrels but now support only populations of fox squirrels, and habitats which currently support populations of both gray squirrels and fox squirrels, and have supported both species for at least 10 years. Included in the methodology are 7 different selected study sites for each of the two types of habitats, resulting in a total of 14 different study sites.

In response to Commissioner Aronberg, Professor Muchlinski reported Autobahn provided informational support for the project. Commissioner Drummond inquired about a potential study in controlling the population of fox squirrels. Professor Muchlinski mentioned the possibility of removal of fox squirrel to encourage repopulation of gray squirrel in certain habitats. In response to Commissioner Jones Ms. Brunelle indicated the western gray squirrel and eastern gray squirrel are different species.

Professor Muchlinski stated habitat conditions in Los Angeles are conducive for fox squirrel growth, however the impact of fox squirrel on the native gray squirrel is unknown. The research will focus on the preservation of native gray squirrel with the consideration of two key elements; habitat fragmentation and developments in the area. The fox squirrel has general acceptance of the ecological change while the gray squirrel is associated with wilderness.

The Commission thanked Professor Muchlinski and Ms. Brunelle for their presentation.

**After discussion, Chairperson Hybarger's revised motion to grant request in the amount of \$3,000 to research the coexistence of Native Western Gray Squirrel and the introduced Fox Squirrel in Certain Habitats failed to carry by the following vote: Ayes: Commissioners: Hybarger and Jones; Noes; Commissioners: Aronberg, Drummond and Nuremberg.**

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP SURVEY AND ANTI-POACHING PROGRAM FOCUSED ON THE BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION**

Jeff Villepique, Wildlife Biologist, California Department Fish and Game (Department) reported three Sheep Collars were cut off in Big Bear area raising the issue of 'poaching'. In response to Vice-Chair Aronberg, Chairperson Hybarger stated the Commission has the authority to financially support the reward program for identifying poachers.

Mr. Villepique reported the annual Bighorn Sheep count will take place on February 24, 2007. This year, the Department is targeting 120 volunteers for the annual Bighorn Sheep count. Chairperson Hybarger and Mr. Villepique concurred that sheep disease adversely affects the sheep population.

**GAMEBIRD HERITAGE SUMMARY/UPDATE- NICHOLAS BECHTEL, STATE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Mr. Bechtel, Special Hunt Coordinator, reported the program was well within budget this fiscal year. Mr. Bechtel advised the new database will not allow applicants to be drawn more than once for Game Bird Heritage Hunts. Hunter education students who successfully completed the hunter education course receive a priority stamp and bypass the drawing process and have a first chance in filling the hunt dates of their choice.

Mr. Bechtel reported a majority of junior hunts conflicted with sports activities on the weekends resulting in cancellations. The goals for next hunt season are to have junior hunts once a month on Sunday afternoons and to add a hunter education class for women to increase women's hunt attendance.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CURRENT DFG RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 2007-08 DEER HUNTS EFFECTIVE WITHIN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Chairperson Hybarger questioned the reliability of census data from the State Department of Fish and Game (DFG) on deer counts and stated the deer population is in decline. Mr. Villepique reported the DFG is using helicopters, GIS Maps and aerial photos for deer counts. In response to Commissioner Drummond, Mr. Villepique reported the available data does not support the theory of mountain lion adversely affecting the deer population.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING CURRENT ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSIONERS**

Chairperson Hybarger reported the Commission is interested in holding an annual regional conference of the Southern Counties Fish and Game Commissions.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Aronberg requested a reminder for scheduled Fish and Game events.

**Matters not Posted (To be Briefly Discussed and Placed on the Agenda for a Future Meeting)**

There was none.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

